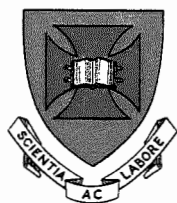


UNIVERSITY OF QUEENSLAND

NEVILLE COLEMAN DAVIS

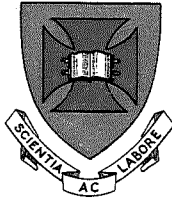
"MR. CHANCELLOR,

THE INHABITANTS OF QUEENSLAND PROUDLY PROCLAIM THAT THEIRS IS THE SUNSHINE STATE. A BEAMING SUBTROPICAL SUN PROVIDES US WITH AN ABUNDANCE OF THE FRUITS OF THE EARTH AS WELL AS LEISURE RESORTS WHICH ARE THE ENVY OF THOSE CONDEMNED TO LIVE SOUTH OF THE THIRTY-FIFTH PARALLEL. BUT THE SUN'S PLEASANT SMILE IS NOT ENTIRELY BENIGN: QUEENSLANDERS ARE, UNHAPPILY, MORE LIKELY TO SUCCUMB TO CANCER OF THE SKIN AND TO MELANOMA THAN ANY OTHER POPULATION IN THE WORLD. TO THE UNDERSTANDING OF THE CAUSES AND THE STUDY OF THE NATURAL HISTORY OF THIS PIGMENTED TUMOUR (THE MELANOMA) WHICH BEHAVES IN SUCH AN UNPREDICTABLE MANNER AND WHICH HAS HIGHLY MALIGNANT PROPENSITIES, DR DAVIS HAS DEVOTED A SUBSTANTIAL PART OF HIS BUSY SURGICAL LIFE. HE HAS BEEN HIGHLY COMMENDED BY HIS SURGICAL COLLEAGUES FOR HAVING DEvised STRATEGIES OF TREATMENT WHICH HAVE ELEVATED HOPES FOR THE LONGER SURVIVAL OF THE AFFLICTED, ENABLING HIM TO COIN A PHRASE NOW FIRMLY ENTRENCHED IN THE LITERATURE. 'MELANOMA IS A WORD, NOT A SENTENCE OF DEATH'. IT IS AN APHORISM WHICH SUMS UP HIS OWN NOTABLE ACHIEVEMENT.

NEVILLE COLEMAN DAVIS OBTAINED HIS MEDICAL QUALIFICATIONS AT THE UNIVERSITY OF SYDNEY IN 1945, PROCEEDING TO THE FELLOWSHIP OF THE ENGLISH COLLEGE OF SURGEONS IN 1949 AND TO FELLOWSHIP OF THE AUSTRALIAN COLLEGE IN 1956. IN 1977, HE WAS ADMITTED TO THE DEGREE OF DOCTOR OF MEDICINE OF THE UNIVERSITY OF SYDNEY. AS WELL AS BEING A SURGICAL SCHOLAR OF NOTE, HE HAS SERVED WITH DISTINCTION IN THE ARMY MEDICAL CORPS, SERVING AS A LT. COLONEL - A HIGH RANK FOR ONE SO YOUNG - IN THAT BITTER AND UNREWARDING WAS IN KOREA IN 1951, AND AGAIN IN 1969 IN VIETNAM. SINCE 1963, HE HAS BEEN CONSULTING SURGEON WITH THE NORTHERN COMMAND.

ON HIS RETURN FROM KOREA IN 1957, HE WAS APPOINTED A SURGICAL SUPERVISOR AT THE ROYAL BRISBANE HOSPITAL. ONE OF OUR MEDICAL MEMBERS OF SENATE WAS A STUDENT OF DR DAVIS, TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO; SHE REMEMBERS THE AWE IN WHICH THE YOUTHFUL BUT EXPERIENCED COLONEL WAS HELD; AND SHE REMEMBERS TOO THE CLARITY, LUCIDITY AND ESSENTIAL SIMPLICITY OF HIS SURGICAL TEACHING. IT IS INDEED CLARITY AND LUCIDITY WHICH HAS BECOME THE NOTABLE FEATURE OF HIS SUBSEQUENT CLINICAL RESEARCH. IN 1956, THE PRINCESS ALEXANDRA HOSPITAL WAS OPENED AND NEVILLE DAVIS WAS ONE OF THE FIRST TO BE APPOINTED TO ITS SURGICAL STAFF. HIS ASSOCIATION WITH AND HIS AFFECTION FOR THIS TEACHING HOSPITAL HAS CONTINUED TO THIS DAY. AS A GENERAL SURGEON HE HAS BEEN TIRELESS IN HIS EFFORTS TO ESTABLISH THE SURGICAL REPUTATION OF

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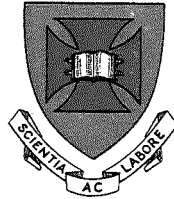
NEVILLE COLEMAN DAVIS (cont.)

THAT HOSPITAL. AS A TEACHER OF UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS, HE HAS BEEN OUTSTANDING, AND AS A FRIEND AND MENTOR TO GENERATIONS OF SURGICAL REGISTRARS HIS PATIENCE AND THE EXAMPLE OF ELEGANT CRAFTSMANSHIP HAVE EARNED FOR HIM UNIVERSAL AFFECTION AND VERY DEEP RESPECT.

HIS INTERESTS IN SURGICAL SCIENCE HAVE BEEN CATHOLIC YET NOT EVER SUPERFICIAL. HIS EARLY EXPERIENCE OF WAS PROVOKED AN ABIDING INTEREST IN THE TREATMENT OF CANCER OF THE LARGE BOWEL AND RECTUM, HIS DRIVE AND ENTHUSIASM LEADING TO THE ESTABLISHMENT IN HIS HOSPITAL OF A SPECIALIST COLO-RECTAL UNIT. BUT HIS MAJOR AND LONGLASTING CONCERN HAS BEEN WITH THE BIOLOGY AND TREATMENT OF MELANOMA. IN HIS ZEAL TO ACHIEVE GREATER UNDERSTANDING HE HAS COMMUNICATED HIS ENTHUSIASM TO A WIDE RANGE OF COLLEAGUES WITH HOM HE IS ASSOCIATED IN THE QUEENSLAND MELANOMA PROJECT, A RESEARCH GROUP WHICH HAS ACQUIRED A CONSIDERABLE INTERNATIONAL REPUTATION, AND WHICH HAS ATTRACTED SUBSTANTIAL OUTSIDE FINANCIAL SUPPORT. IT WAS FITTING THAT HIS COLLEGE SHOULD PAY HIM THE HANDSOME COMPLIMENT OF MAKING BRISBANE THE VENUE FOR ITS JUBILEE SEMINAR IN 1977 TO WHICH MANY INTERNATIONAL SURGICAL SCHOLARS WERE INVITED, AND AT WHICH DR DAVIS WAS A PRINCIPAL CONTRIBUTOR. FROM THE PROJECT HAS EMANATED A SERIES OF PAPERS ILLUMINATING MANY ASPECTS OF MELANOMA AND INVOLVING MANY DISCIPLINES - DERMATOLOGY, EPIDEMIOLOGY, PATHOLOGY, IMMUNOLOGY AND VIROLOGY. WE SHALL NEVER KNOW ALL ABOUT MELANOMA; BUT WE NOW KNOW MORE THAN WE SHOULD OTHERWISE HAVE KNOWN BECAUSE OF THE WORK OF DR DAVIS AND HIS COLLEAGUES, DOCTORS LITTLE, BEARDMORE, POPE AND OTHERS.

MANY HONOURS HAVE BEEN BESTOWED ON NEVILLE DAVIS, AMONG THEM THE HENRY SIMPSON NEWLAND PRIZE OF HIS COLLEGE, THE SIR JOHN LOEWENTHAL CLINICAL MEDAL AND THE AWARD OF A CHURCHILL FELLOWSHIP. THIS UNIVERSITY ACKNOWLEDGES ITS DEBT OF GRATITUDE FOR THE OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTION HE HAS MADE TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF SURGICAL SCHOLARSHIP AT PRINCESS ALEXANDRA HOSPITAL WITH WHICH WE ARE PROUD TO BE AFFILIATED, AND EXPRESSES ITS DEEP APPRECIATION OF THE SINGULAR CONTRIBUTIONS HE HAS MADE TO SURGICAL RESEARCH, BRINGING CREDIT TO HIMSELF, TO HIS STATE AND TO HIS COUNTRY.

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NEVILLE COLEMAN DAVIS (cont.)

MR CHANCELLOR, I PRESENT TO YOU NEVILLE COLEMAN DAVIS, BACHELOR OF MEDICINE, BACHELOR OF SURGERY, DOCTOR OF MEDICINE (SYDNEY), FELLOW OF THE ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS, FELLOW OF THE ROYAL AUSTRALASIAN COLLEGE OF SURGEONS, FOR ADMISSION TO THE DEGREE OF DOCTOR OF SURGERY 'HONORIS CAUSA'."

The Chancellor says -

"NEVILLE COLEMAN DAVIS, BY THE AUTHORITY VESTED IN ME AND UPON THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE VICE-CHANCELLOR, I ADMIT YOU TO THE RANK AND PRIVILEGES OF THE DEGREE OF DOCTOR OF SURGERY 'HONORIS CAUSA' IN THE UNIVERSITY OF QUEENSLAND."